# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COAL AND MINES
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3157
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2001
REVIVAL OF ECL
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**Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) has taken up95 projects since its inception of which 40 have been abandoned/suspended rendering infructuous investment of Rs.71.76 crores;

(b) whether the Government have prepared any plan for revival of the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(d) the strength of workers in the ECL at present;

(e) whether the Government have chalked out any plan for the welfare of these workers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) In Eastern Coalfields Limited, 98 projects were taken up since its inception out of which 40 projects have been abandoned /suspended due to various reasons.Total expenditure incurred in the abandoned /suspended projects amounts to Rs. 71.76 crores. However, expenditure incurred on plant and machinery , prospecting , infrastructure etc. are being utilised gainfully in existing mines.

(b) & (c) Coal India Limited engaged IndustrialCredit & Investment Corporation of India ( ICICI) in 1997 toprepare a restructuring - cum- revival plan for Eastern Coalfields Limited . The ICICI submitted their final report in January, 2000Controller General of Accounts ( CGA) had expressed reservations about certain observations of ICICI . CGA instead suggested an alternative plan. After a thorough review, a plan for survival and eventual revival of the company has been drawn up by ECL management and submitted to the Government for consideration. The plan will be taken up for implementation after its approval by the competent authority.. The broad outline of the proposal is as under:-

i) No worker will be terminated but if the workers come forward for Voluntary Retirement Scheme , it will be considered.

ii) The manpower and machines will be re-deployed in such a way that optimal utilization of men and machines is achieved. In the process, work in some mines may be discontinued.

iii) Instead of outright purchase of Heavy Earth Moving Machinery(HEMM), these would be taken on lease towork some opencast mines.

iv) Financial support by CIL/Govt. for meeting liabilities for payment of arrear wages and debt servicing.

v) Further relief by reduction of cess by the Govt. of West Bengal to the level of royalty in other States.

vi) Closure of some mines of ECL which have become commercially unviable.

(d) The strength of workers in ECL as on 1.11.2001 is 122503 .

(e) & (f) ECL has a budget for welfare of its workers which includes housing, water supply, medical etc. Besides , employment to the dependents is provided for the employees in case of death in harness. There is also pension scheme for workers who are eligible through Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation.